

# Target store is being closed because of low sales volume

One of Target's 15 Houston stores is being closed by the chain's Minneapolis-based parent firm, but the company said it hopes to offer affected employees work at other Target stores.

Dayton Hudson Corp., which owns Target stores, said the store at 6059 South Loop is not providing the return on investment needed to justify keeping it open. The firm did not supply any figures or indicate the extent of the sales decline.

The company credited the store's employees with trying to counter the problem by improving cost control measures and maintaining a high level of customer service, but those efforts did not counter the dip in sales. The store opened in 1969.

Target said it will try to help the

125 people who work full-time and part-time at the South Loop store to find work elsewhere, including at other Target stores. The employees also will have the option of taking severance pay, the company said.

For the next four to six weeks, about half of the employees will be needed to move merchandise out of that store, the company said.

The closing of the store apparently does not indicate a retreat from Texas or the Houston area. Target stores have opened within the past two years in Sugar Land and Mission Bend, and the company said it has 48 stores in the state.

Target currently operates 251 stores in 22 states and predicted that number will grow to 317 by the end of this year.